**ARIs in Kashmir Valley**

184. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that no industry has been set up in Kashmir Valley during the last four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would set up Agro and Rural Industries in the Valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM): (a) No, Sir. As far as rural industries are concerned it is not true. During the year 2001-2002 itself, 163 units have been set up in Kashmir Valley under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) to promote setting up of agro & rural industries in the Valley.

**Employment generation by KVIC in NER**

185. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has decided to generate new employment opportunities in the North Eastern Region during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Department for Development of North Eastern Region would make any matching grant/agree to a higher allocation for the rural employment generation scheme of the KVIC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?